



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 11 2005

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

Melanie A. Marty, Ph.D.
Chair
Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee
1515 Clay Street, 16th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Dr. Marty:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 9, 2004, on behalf of the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee regarding EPA's programs for schools. Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding.

We appreciate the continuing interest and support of the Committee as EPA strives to better coordinate and integrate its efforts to improve the school environments where our children are educated and teachers and staff work hard to provide a high quality educational environment. As you note in your letter, we are making progress in establishing strong collaborative relationships across various EPA programs as well as with our partners in other Federal agencies and among the many non-governmental organizations with whom we share a common interest in improving children's health.

The "one stop shop" healthy school environments web site makes it much easier for the public to find information on environmental health issues affecting schools, and we continue to try to improve the site, recently adding a Chemical Management topic to help people find good resources to help schools address chemical hazards in schools. EPA's School Chemical Cleanout Campaign provided seed money to each EPA Region in 2004 to support programs to safely remove old, outdated and hazardous stocks of chemicals. While all of the data from these pilots is not available yet, substantial amounts of hazardous chemicals (including mercury) appear to have been successfully removed from schools.

We are also working to complete a first national release version of the Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool by the fall of 2005. This collaborative effort allowed us to work across EPA programs to develop an integrated checklist of key environmental issues. The tool will, for the first time, provide school districts with the ability to centralize and manage all of their environmental health and safety issues.

Ongoing improvement in EPA's coordination and outreach efforts to protect children's health in schools are in line with your committee's recommendations. Continuing to improve coordination and integration of EPA's schools programs will better reduce risks from environmental hazards. The committee's recommendations will be considered as part of the EPA's FY2007 budget process and our internal discussions.

We will certainly keep the Committee informed of progress across the Agency in addressing school environmental health issues. Please feel free to contact me (202-343-9320) if you wish to discuss specific efforts in the Agency.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Cotsworth, Director
Office of Radiation and Indoor Air

cc: William Sanders, Acting Director
Office of Children's Health Protection